

County Description

Geographic

- Putnam County is located at the intersection of Interstate 40 and Highway 111 at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains in the Upper Cumberland Region of Middle Tennessee.
- Cookeville, the county seat of Putnam, is 80 miles east of Nashville, 100 miles west of Knoxville, and 90 miles from Chattanooga.
- Jackson, Cumberland, Overton, White, DeKalb, and Smith counties of Tennessee surround Putnam County, often referred to as the hub of the Upper Cumberland.
- The average temperature in January is 33.7 degrees and the average for July is 75.1 degrees with annual average precipitation being 58.36 inches.

Land Area

- Cookeville, the county seat of Putnam, was recently listed by “The New Rating Guide to Life in America’s Small Cities” as the number one micropolitan city in Tennessee.
- Putnam County encompasses some 408 square miles.
- Three Corps of Engineer lakes, with over 1,200 miles of shoreline, are within a thirty-minute drive.
- Putnam County is 1,140 feet above sea level.

Economic Base

- The county’s median family personal income is \$27,015.
- The county’s median household personal income is \$21,693.
- Putnam County’s per capita personal income is \$11,004.
- Putnam County’s civilian labor force as December 1998 was 31,960.
- The unemployment rate for Putnam County is 3.1 percent.
- The individual poverty rate for Putnam County is 16.6 percent.
- The family poverty rate for Putnam County is 12.8 percent.
- The top industry employers for Putnam County include Aquatech Inc., Dacco Inc., Fleetguard, Russell Stover Candies, TRW and Tutco.

Demographics

- Putnam County’s education system consists of six K-4 elementary schools, three K-6 elementary schools, two middle schools, three high schools, and one private school.